

transverse flange to assure fiber optic cables do not become pinched or trapped between components. --

In the Claims

The claims have been amended as follows. Underlines indicate insertions and ~~strikeouts~~ indicate deletions.

1. A fiber optic cable connector tray system comprising:

a tray framework with a first end, a second end, a first side and a second side; a plurality of fiber optic cable adapter holding structures mounted to the tray framework such that fiber optic connectors therein would be in a generally transverse orientation from the first side to the second side of the tray framework, the plurality of fiber optic cable adapter holding structures each comprising:

a first adapter mount area configured to receive a first adapter;

a second adapter mount area configured to receive a second adapter; and

a fiber optic cable passageway between the first adapter mount area and the second adapter mount area.

2. A fiber optic cable connector tray system as recited in claim 1, and further wherein the plurality of adapter holding structures are configured to receive at least sixteen FC-type adapters.

3. A fiber optic cable connector tray system as recited in claim 1, and further wherein the plurality of adapter holding structures are configured to receive at least twenty-four FC-type adapters.
4. A fiber optic cable connector tray system as recited in claim 1, and further comprising a cabinet with an internal cavity configured to slidably receive the tray framework.
5. A fiber optic cable connector tray system as recited in claim 1, and further wherein the first adapter mount area and the second adapter mount area further comprise:
 - an alignment guide disposed to insert into an aperture in an FC-type adapter when the FC-type adapter is mounted to the adapter mount area; and
 - a latch configured to secure a first FC-type adapter to the first adapter mount area, and a second latch configured to secure a second FC-type adapter to the adapter holding structure.
6. A fiber optic cable connector tray system as recited in claim 1, and further wherein the plurality of adapter holding structures are slidably mounted to the tray framework such that they may be slid in a direction away from a base of the tray framework.

7. A fiber optic cable connector tray system as recited in claim 6, and further wherein the tray system comprises a plurality of base apertures in the base of the tray framework corresponding and adjacent to the plurality of adapter holding structures, the plurality of base apertures providing access to the plurality of adapter holding structures through the base.
8. A fiber optic cable connector tray system as recited in claim 1, and further wherein the fiber optic cable adapter holding structures are mounted at a mount angle less than ninety degrees relative to a base of the tray framework.
9. A fiber optic cable connector tray system as recited in claim 8, and wherein the mount angle is less than ten degrees.
10. A fiber optic cable connector tray system as recited in claim 1, and further comprising a cable storage area on the tray framework, the cable storage area being generally transversely oriented from the first side to the second side of the tray framework.
11. A fiber optic cable connector tray system as recited in claim 10, and further comprising a splice housing mounted to the tray framework above the cable storage area.

12. A fiber optic cable connector tray system as recited in claim 11, and further wherein the splice housing is pivotally mounted to the tray framework above the cable storage area.
13. A connector tray system as recited in claim 9, and further wherein the plurality of adapter holding structures are configured to receive at least eight FC-type adapters.
14. A fiber optic cable connector tray system as recited in claim 9, and further wherein the plurality of adapter holding structures are configured to receive at least twelve FC-type adapters.
15. A fiber optic cable connector tray system as recited in claim 1, and further wherein the plurality of fiber optic cable adapter holding structures are mounted to the tray framework in a non-linear array.
16. A fiber optic cable connector tray system as recited in claim 1, and further wherein a first of the plurality of fiber optic cable adapter holding structures is mounted to the tray framework offset from a second of the plurality of adapter holding structures, and disposed such that a fiber optic cable attached to an adapter on the first of the plurality of adapter holding structures passes

through the passageway on the second of the plurality of adapter holding structures.

17. A fiber optic cable connector tray system as recited in claim 16, and further wherein a third of the plurality of fiber optic cable adapter holding structures is mounted to the tray framework offset from a fourth of the plurality of adapter holding structures, and disposed such that a fiber optic cable attached to an adapter on the third of the plurality of adapter holding structures passes through the passageway on the fourth of the plurality of adapter holding structures.

18. A fiber optic cable connector tray system as recited in claim 16, and further wherein a fifth of the plurality of fiber optic cable adapter holding structures is mounted to the tray framework offset from a sixth of the plurality of adapter holding structures, and disposed such that a fiber optic cable attached to an adapter on the fifth of the plurality of adapter holding structures passes through the passageway on the sixth of the plurality of adapter holding structures.

19. A fiber optic cable connector tray comprised of:
a tray framework with a first end, a second end, a first side and a second side;

a plurality of fiber optic cable adapter holding structures mounted to the tray framework, the fiber optic adapter holding structures being mounted such that fiber optic connectors therein would be in a general orientation from the first side to the second side of the tray framework and including an adapter holding structure comprised of:

 a first adapter mount area configured to receive a first adapter, the first adapter mount area including an alignment guide disposed to insert into an aperture in the first adapter when the adapter is mounted to the framework;

 a second adapter mount area configured to receive a second adapter, the second adapter mount area including an alignment guide disposed to insert into an aperture in the second adapter when the adapter is mounted to the framework;

 a first latch configured to secure the first adapter to the first adapter mount area, and a second latch configured to secure the second adapter to the framework; and

 a fiber optic cable passageway between the first adapter mount area and the second adapter mount area;

 wherein a first one of the plurality of adapter holding structures is mounted offset from a second one of the plurality of adapter holding structures, and disposed such that a fiber optic cable connected to the first one of the plurality of adapter holding structures may be routed through the fiber optic cable passageway of the second one of the plurality of adapter holding structures.

20. A fiber optic cable connector tray as recited in claim 19, and further comprised of a plurality of tray framework apertures adjacent the plurality of fiber optic cable adapter holding structures mounted to the tray framework, and through which the adapter holding structures may be accessed from below the framework.

21. (Amended) A fiber optic cable connector tray as recited in claim 19, and further wherein the fiber optic cable adapter holding structures are mounted at an angle relative to a plane perpendicular to the tray framework.

22. A fiber optic cable connector tray as recited in claim 21, and wherein the angle is less than ten degrees.

23. (Amended) A fiber optic cable adapter holding structure comprised of:
an adapter holding structure comprised of:
a first adapter mount area configured to receive a first FC-type adapter, the first adapter mount area including an alignment guide disposed to insert into an aperture in the first FC-type adapter when the adapter is mounted to a holder the framework;
a second adapter mount area configured to receive a second FC-type adapter, the second adapter mount area including an alignment guide disposed to insert

into an aperture in the second FC-type adapter when the adapter is mounted to the holder framework; and

a first latch configured to secure the first FC-type adapter to the first adapter mount area, and a second latch configured to secure the second FC-type adapter to the holder framework; and

a fiber optic cable passageway between the first adapter mount area and the second adapter mount area.

24. (Amended) A fiber optic cable adapter holding structure for use in combination with an FC adapter, the adapter holding structure comprised of:

a first adapter mount area on the a holder framework configured to receive a first FC-type adapter, the first adapter mount area including an alignment guide disposed to insert into an aperture in the first FC-type adapter when the adapter is mounted to the holder framework;

a first latch configured to secure the first FC-type adapter to the first adapter mount area; and

wherein the holder framework has a width which is less than or equal to the FC-type adapter width.

25. (Amended) A fiber optic cable adapter holding structure as recited in claim 24, and wherein the holder framework is further comprised of:

a second adapter mount area on the holder framework configured to receive a second FC-type adapter abutting the first adapter, the second adapter mount area including an alignment guide disposed to insert into an aperture in the second FC-type adapter when the adapter is mounted to the holder framework; and wherein the holder framework has a width which is less or equal to the first FC-type adapter and the second FC-type adapter abutted together.

26. (Amended) A fiber optic cable adapter holding structure as recited in claim 24, and wherein the holder framework is further comprised of:

a second adapter mount area on the framework configured to receive a second FC-type adapter, the second adapter mount area including an alignment guide disposed to insert into an aperture in the second FC-type adapter when the adapter is mounted to the holder framework;

a fiber optic cable passageway between the first adapter mount area and the second adapter mount area; and

wherein the holder framework has a width which is less than or equal to the sum of widths of the first FC-type adapter, the second FC-type adapter and the fiber optic cable passageway.

27. A fiber optic cable adapter holding structure comprised of:
an adapter holding structure comprised of:

a first adapter mount area configured to receive a first FC-type adapter, the first adapter mount area including an alignment means to position the first FC-type adapter when it is mounted to the framework;

a second adapter mount area configured to receive a second FC-type adapter, the second adapter mount area including an alignment means to position the second FC-type adapter when it is mounted to the framework; and

a first attachment means to secure the first FC-type adapter to the first adapter mount area, and a second attachment means to secure the second FC-type adapter to the framework

28. A fiber optic cable adapter holding structure as recited in claim 27, and further comprised of a fiber optic cable passageway between the first adapter mount area and the second adapter mount area

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